



April 9, 2019

Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Oregon State Legislature

HB 3399: Opposed

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Territory Society of Professional Journalists is now opposed to HB 3399 as written, based on additional research. Concerns include:

- This bill, as written, hurts transparency.
- Oregon law already protects requesters from paying the government's attorneys fees. What issues do exist can be addressed easily without major changes to the law.
- Current language will up-end the current system of district attorney/Attorney General appeals and informal consultation that currently works quite well to avoid the courts and save money.
- Bill would undermine system by turning DAs or the AG into advocates for records requesters without regard to the requesters' resources or public interest involved, potentially affecting system integrity. Multinational corporations/well-funded out-of-state political organizations could enlist DAs/ the AG to assist them in obtaining records for litigation against state and local government.

-Nick Budnick, board member, Oregon Territory Society of Professional Journalists. Co-chair, OTSPJ Freedom of Information Committee